

**MINUTES OF SHERFIELD ENGLISH PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Leigh (in chair), Cook, J Noble, R Noble, S Dovey, J Billett and D Griffiths. Also, in attendance was Clerk to the council, Sue Holder, Cllr Nick Adams King and 5 members of the public. To note the Explorer Scout Group also observed the meeting by sharing the group leader's screen as part of their Community Impact Badge.

**21/051 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** No apologies received.

**21/052 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**21/053 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the two previous meetings had been sent to all Councillors before the meeting and were agreed to be an accurate record of those meetings.

**21/054 MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MEETINGS:**

It was brought to the attention of the parish council that a member of the public had advertised the last planning meeting on Facebook using the incorrect Zoom password and ID making it difficult for one member of the public to join at the start of that meeting. The parish council have now agreed to the following actions to improve communications with the parish:

- 1) The original WhatsApp volunteer group will be reactivated.
- 2) Cllr Billett will create and administer a Parish Council Notice board Facebook page.
- 3) John Hartley will continue to administer the village website but the Facebook page will link into it.
- 4) The Facebook page is merely for notices not for responding to parishioners' comments or complaints which should be emailed to the parish clerk or at parish council meetings.
- 5) Information on the Facebook page for inclusion in the next addition of SEDCA will be sent to Cllr Griffiths.
- 6) It may also be possible to make an electronic copy of the SEDCA newsletter viewable from the Facebook page, but this will be reviewed.

**21/055 OPEN FORUM:**

- Footpaths – Open Access for All  
UG opened a discussion on improving the footpaths in the village to enable access to all footpaths. She reported that some stiles in the village were in a poor state and some dangerous and suggested the parish council could remind landowners of their responsibilities to keep footpaths open. Grant funding was reported to be available from Hampshire County Council to replace stiles with kissing gates where stock was not an issue. Alternatively, some stiles could be removed if stock was not an issue. The possibility to utilise volunteers such as the Explorer Scouts for some path clearance or stile removal was proposed.

The chairman responded that it was really positive for young people to volunteer to help in the community and this should be supported. However, we need to be aware of our responsibilities if the Parish Council are the body effectively taking responsibility for the actions of these volunteers, and the necessary insurances and risk assessments need to be in place.

It was then reported that Cllr J Noble had requested to be trained as a footpath warden, and in so doing will be provided with a rucksack of Hampshire County Council yellow waymarking directional signs and appropriate tools to be able to replace and clarify routes over a number of the footpaths. This will at least give walkers some direction and hopefully remove the risk of people wandering off footpaths, particularly onto farmland which is potentially dangerous. In addition, Hampshire County Council have offered some metal gates and kissing gates for free to be installed by a landowner where an open access is not suitable, although Hampshire County Council prefer to make footpaths as accessible to all as possible. Cllr Noble was aware of a few places where it would be advisable for the farmer to use this opportunity. With regards a number of issues on Doctor's Hill footpaths, identified by parishioners, and the removal of the stiles, Hampshire County Council have approached the house owners adjacent to one of the set of stiles and no one is claiming that they own the land. This makes an impossible situation for improvements but an agreement with Hampshire County Council has been reached that Hampshire County Council will remove all of the stile furniture on these routes and "make safe". There is a complication of a steep gradient on one stile. This work will be interspersed with major footpath bridge repair works in the county which Hampshire County Council are committed to at present. Other issues - there is one part of the foot path which has been illegally moved and various directional signs which are missing. One footpath is redundant – it is a dead end into a property, possibly an old service route. Apart from one tree branch down there were no vegetation issues, but Hampshire County Council have been informed of the tree. Cllr J Noble said UG and the Scouts should be applauded for volunteering to improve their community.

The parish council have agreed to appoint Cllr J Noble as the footpath warden and at each parish council meeting would identify work required to improve the footpaths. The parish council would act as a conduit with Hampshire County Council in reporting footpath issues and would track the progress. Some footpath maintenance would also be assigned to the Lengths man.

- UG reported that Hampshire County Council had sent a flyer to households regarding a voucher scheme for superfast broadband.

## **21/056 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Adams King reported that land on the east side of Newtown Road, adjacent to the A27, was being offered in multiple freehold lots by auction. The land had been advertised on Rightmoves and a local flyer. It is understood that the contract to sell the land has been exchanged but not yet completed on the sale. The planning team at Test Valley Borough Council have been alerted and have agreed to put Tree Preservation Orders on trees on the boundary of the land and on the woodland and for a possible Article 4 Direction to remove certain Permitted Development Rights in order that the land could not be divided or used on a temporary basis without full planning permission. The auction is scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr Adams King reported that he was waiting for a price from Test Valley Borough Council to print the SEDCA this month because St Edwards School who normally do the printing are currently closed due to COVID. RS also offered to print the newsletter free of charge.

## **21/057 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)**

John Hartley reported good progress on the NDP. Having received grant funding, the plan is now in its delivery phase. Consultants have been employed to deliver a Housing Needs Survey, with a first draft anticipated by the end of March. An update of progress will be included in SEDCA in the new year asking for comments on areas of the village parishioners' wish to preserve or enhance.

## **21/058 PLANNING**

Applications for discussion at this meeting:

### **20/02695/FULLS Sherfield Manor**

Removal of stables/store/tack room/log store

The parish council resolved not to object to this application.

### **20/02694/Sherfield Manor**

Removal of terrace and erection of larger replacement terrace

The parish council resolved not to object to this application.

To note, the chairman opened the meeting at this point to the applicants Mr Green, Mr Dennis and Miss Jones.

### **20/02673/FULLS Land At Dandys Ford**

Change of use to allow for the retention of siting of residential mobile home for occupation by an essential agricultural worker and sewage treatment plant

The parish council resolved not to object to this application. However, this decision is based on the residential mobile home being retained on a **temporary basis** for use only by the essential agricultural worker and should be subject to review.

### **20/02672/FULLS Land At Dandys Ford**

Erection of an agricultural barn (retrospective) and extension to existing barn

The parish council resolved to make no comment on this application.

Decisions received from Test Valley Borough Council:

### **20/02141/FULLS Wiseman Farm**

Livestock building and associated hardstanding **PERMISSION**

### **20/02109/FULLS Oak Lodge, Danes Road**

Erection of a two-story

side extension incorporating a two bay garage with storage space above and extension to the master bedroom; single storey rear extension to form lounge and sun room

**WITHDRAWN**

### **20/02123/FULLS Oakwood Farm**

Installation of sewage treatment plant (Amended location) **PERMISSION**

### **20/01951/FULLS Hillview Newtown Road**

Erect new hay barn, enclosed on three sides

PC No comment **PERMISSION**

### **20/01939/FULLS Yew Tree Cottage Doctors Hill**

Two storey side extension, to provide additional living space and accommodation, and erection of a replacement garage

PC have no objection to the extension in principle but would expect it to be in keeping with the existing property. Would also suggest both the size and location of the proposed garage is not appropriate and that it may be better placed at right angles to the existing hedge line. **PERMISSION**

### **20/01957/VARS The Orchard Doctors Hill**

To vary condition 2 (approved plans) and condition 3 (external materials) of 20/01041/FULLS (Replacement detached dwelling and garage with annex and link, following demolition of existing dwelling) to allow for change in window and dormer colour  
PC No comment **PERMISSION**

To note: The parish council gave the following response to the recent planning reform:

- 1) Our biggest objection must be to the basic idea that a central government department can override local decisions about total housing numbers, or the rate at which they should be achieved. They cannot possibly know as well as the local borough what the local needs are, and what can be made to work.
- 2) The borough should have an obligation to show that they have duly considered the government's input, but the decision about what actually goes into the plan **MUST** be a local decision. The government should be able to challenge the plan on procedural or due diligence grounds, but not just override it.
- 3) **If boroughs' plans do not add up to enough for national needs, then there is clearly a need for some 'new towns', just as there have been repeatedly since the 1940s.** It is not good government to try and side-step this decision by forcing housing into places where it is not wanted.

#### **20/059 LENGTHSMAN / FOOTPATHS**

Cllr J Noble reported that the Lengths man has cleared the grips in Branches Lane this month. Cllr Griffiths thanked the Lengths man reporting that drainage locally is much improved. Work to be assigned next month will include clearing the creeping weed and leaves from the A27 footpath and to remove the ivy from the bus shelter.

It was reported that a tree has fallen, and a stile is in poor condition on a footpath on land belonging to The Mill; Cllr J Noble will address with Hampshire County Council.

#### **20/060 HIGHWAYS**

It was reported that the ditch outside Graemar Cottages overflows towards the Old Post Office possibly due to failing pipework under the road and therefore an issue for Hampshire County Council rather than the adjacent landowners.

It was reported that the branches of a tree are overhanging near Newtown Lane by the bus stop and the clerk will report to Hampshire Highways. (21530074)

The parish council are disappointed that despite requests to repair and maintain the A27 from Bunny Lane to the boundary of the village, Hampshire Highways do not think it is necessary.

#### **20/061 CORRESPONDANCE**

- Cllr Perry – Skanska newsletter, noted.
- Scouts – to observe meeting.
- RS – Facebook, chairman responded, and matter closed
- Various – pasture in Newtown Road, noted under Borough Council report
- UG – footpaths various, discussed under open forum
- CJ – notice of meeting, chairman responded, and matter closed

## **20/062 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

Cllr Dovey reported that all sport was currently cancelled due to lockdown.

Cllr J Noble reported that Remembrance Sunday was recognised through silent prayer this year as the usual parish gathering was cancelled due to lockdown.

## **20/063 FINANCE**

The bank balance was reported to be £34703.92 which includes £8409.00 grant funding for the NDP and £528.38 VAT reclaimed from last year.

- Payments to ratify: Zoom subscription £143.88.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Date of next meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021